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**Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness  
Committee**

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**HB 1279**

**Brief Description:** Increasing the seriousness level for manslaughter in the second degree.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Pearson, Kristiansen, O'Brien and Smith.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Increases manslaughter in the second degree from a seriousness level VIII to a level X offense.

**Hearing Date:** 2/3/09

**Staff:** Yvonne Walker (786-7841)

**Background:**

A person commits manslaughter in the first degree if he or she recklessly causes the death of another person or intentionally and unlawfully kills an unborn quick child by inflicting any injury upon the mother of such child. Manslaughter in the first degree is a class A felony with a seriousness level of XI.

A person is guilty of manslaughter in the second degree if he or she causes the death of another with criminal negligence. Manslaughter in the second degree is a class B felony with a seriousness level of VIII. A first-time offender would receive a sentence of 21-27 months in prison.

**Summary of Bill:**

The crime of manslaughter in the second degree is increased to a seriousness level X. A first-time offender would receive a sentence of 51-68 months in prison.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.